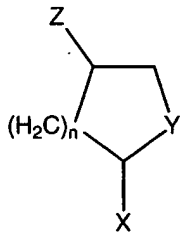
What is claimed is:

1. A coating composition comprising:

(i) a compound according to formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

n is an integer 1, 2, or 3;

X represents hydrogen or a straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or a straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl;

Y represents C=O or CR^1R^2, wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, OR^a, $OC(O)R^a$, $C(O)OR^a$, NR^aR^b, $C(O)R^a$, $C(O)NR^aR^b$, $NR^aC(O)NR^bR^c$, $C(S)NR^aR^b$, $S(O)R^a$, $S(O)_2R^a$, $S(O)_2NR^aR^b$, $S(O)NR^a$, and $P(O)R^a$;

R^a, R^b, and R^c are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl; and

Z is hydrogen or a straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, formula (I) including all isomeric forms of said compound; and

(ii) a film forming component selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated polymer resin, a vinyl ester based resin, a vinyl acetate based resin, a vinyl chloride based resin, a urethane based resin, and a mixture of a natural rosin and a vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer,

said compound being present in said composition in an amount effective to inhibit the attachment of biofouling organisms on a surface to which said composition is applied.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein n is 2.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein X is $CH(CH_3)_2$, Y is HC-OH, and Z is CH_3.

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein said compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 percent to about 50 percent by weight of said composition.

5. The composition of claim 4, wherein said compound is present in an amount from about 0.1 percent to about 10 percent by weight of said composition.

6. The composition of claim 1, wherein said compound according to formula (I) is covalently attached to said film forming agent.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, (-)menthyl chloride, (-)menthone, menthoxypropanediol, and (-)isopulegol.

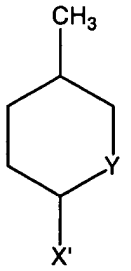
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, and (-)isopulegol.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein said compound is (-)-menthol.

10. A paint comprising the composition of claim 1.

11. The paint of claim 10, which is formulated as a marine paint.

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein said compound is a compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

wherein:

X' represents hydrogen or a straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl or a straight or branched chain, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl; and

Y represents C=O, HC-OR', or HC-Cl, R' being a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and acyl, formula (IA) including all isomeric forms of said compound.

13. A non-toxic coating composition comprising an anti-fouling component consisting essentially of one of the compounds, (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, (-)isopulegol, (-)menthyl chloride, (-)menthone, and menthoxypropanediol, and at least one film forming component selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated polymer resin, a vinyl ester based resin, a vinyl acetate based resin, a vinyl chloride based resin, a urethane based resin, and a mixture of a natural rosin and a vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer.

14. The coating composition of claim 13, wherein said anti-fouling component consists essentially of one of the compounds, (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, (-)isopulegol, and (-)menthyl chloride.

15. The coating composition of claim 13, wherein said anti-fouling component consists essentially of one of the compounds, (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, (-)isopulegol, and

(-)menthone.

16. The coating composition of claim 13, wherein said anti-fouling component consists essentially of one of the compounds, (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, (-)isopulegol, and menthoxypropanediol.

17. The coating composition of claim 13, wherein said anti-fouling component consists essentially of one of the compounds, (-)-menthol, (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, and (-)isopulegol.

18. The coating composition of claim 17, wherein said anti-fouling component consists essentially of (-)-menthol.